

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



September 1993

Volume 6, Number 8

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

"Take Action for Education"

Pacific Coast Public Television Association -- the Canadian affiliate of KCTS /Channel 9 public television -- plans to "Take Action for Education" through a series of community outreach projects in B.C.

"Take Action for Education," launched in May 1993, is a one-year program of integrated projects, which include publications, workshops and public forums. The projects are designed to help parents, students and teachers explore ways to promote reading, media literacy and lifelong learning in B.C.

"Take Action" is sponsored by the Vancouver Foundation, VanCity Savings Credit Union and the McLean Foundation.

The Pacific Coast Public Television Association (incorporated in 1987) "advances education through the production, distribution and promotion of non-commercial television programs and films that are educational in nature, and encourages the utilization of appropriate television programs in the education process at all levels of education."

"Take Action" Project Coordinator, Charlene McAllister, has been a coordinator of professional development workshops and

conferences for Simon Fraser University Continuing Education, and held positions with Vancouver's Community Arts Council and the "Women in View" Festival.

"Take Action for Education" projects include:

❖ "What Did You Learn in School Today?" -- a booklet "designed to encourage parents to become more involved in their child's education ...by developing partnerships with their child, teachers, and local parent advisory groups." It will be available in late September through VanCity branches and the Pacific Coast Public Television office.

The booklet will also be translated into Punjabi, Chinese and Spanish for a second distribution in the late fall.

❖ "Read Aloud Guide" -- a publication that will offer encouragement and concrete suggestions to parents on how and why to read to their children. The guide will use "a basic language level so that it is accessible to those with limited literacy skills." It will be offered to KCTS/9 viewers through public service announcements featuring well-known celebrities reading to children.

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The guide is designed to accompany:

❖ "Let's Watch a Book" -- a series of workshops designed to entertain parents and children together, as well as "introduce them to the joys of literature."

Other projects to be developed in 1994 include:

❖ "Taming Your TV" -- a series of workshops for parents, as well as a summer workshop for teachers, which will promote media literacy and discuss ways to promote critical viewing skills.

❖ "Learning for Life" -- a public awareness campaign that will encourage people to investigate the many avenues available for continuing education in B.C.

❖ "Issues Forum" -- a one-hour public televised debate, which will "animate and support community-wide discussion of the major issues to be decided in the area of education."

McAllister is seeking corporate sponsors and community partners to participate in "Take Action for Education." She invites B.C. community organizations, social service and educational agencies, and anyone interested in participating to contact her:

Charlene McAllister
Project Coordinator
TAKE ACTION FOR EDUCATION
Pacific Coast Public Television
Association
Suite 1300
666 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3J8
Phone: 685-7375 ☐

Provincial Literacy/ABE Coordinator Job Extended

Mary Waddington, B.C.'s Coordinator of Literacy and Adult Basic Education Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT), has been seconded to the position for another year. Her contract has been extended until December 31, 1994.

Waddington, formerly Basic Education Department Head, Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus, became Provincial Literacy Coordinator on August 1, 1992. The addition of responsibility for adult basic education programs was announced in March of this year.

The role of Coordinator is to coordinate the overall direction, development, delivery and evaluation of adult basic education and literacy programs and resources in B.C. The

Coordinator also manages the funding of the literacy projects cost-shared between the MAETT and the National Literacy Secretariat.

For information, contact:

Mary Waddington, Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Second Floor -- 838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

REMINDER

1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared projects may access a mailing list for distribution of the findings, products or other results of their projects.

The list, which is cited in the 1992/93 *Criteria, Guidelines and Conditions* accompanying literacy cost-shared project applications, was developed by the Adult Literacy Contact Centre (ALCC) and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. The list includes 117 names of individuals who represent community colleges, school districts, regional literacy groups and other literacy-related organizations in B.C.

Mailing labels from the list are available upon request from the ALCC.

Phone toll-free in B.C.:
1-800-663-1293

"Nakedness to clothing" and other PD topics

More professional development workshops for literacy and adult basic education practitioners in B.C. are scheduled this fall. The workshops are part of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.'s Regional Professional Development and Needs Assessment Project. The first of the seven scheduled workshops was held for the North Central region in Prince George last June.

To register, phone the local contact of your region's workshop:

NORTHWEST REGION

September 23 - 24

Location: Northwest Community College, Terrace

Contact: Larry Bolingbroke
ABE Coordinator/Instructor
Northwest Community College
Terrace
Phone: 635-6511 (local 239)

September 23 workshop topics:

"Creating learning materials." Presenter: Darrel McLeod, Director, K'noowenchoot Centre, Aboriginal Adult Education Resources, Okanagan College.

"Strategies for teaching reading and writing." Presenters: Paula Davies, Coordinator, Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring Program and Ann McQuaid, Instructor, Adult Basic Education, College of New Caledonia.

September 24 workshop topics:

"Leading students to quality work." Presenter: Lynn Hughes, Counsellor, Northwest Counselling and Training Centre.

"Aboriginal curriculum." Presenter: Darrel McLeod (see above).

"Learnings from China." Presenters: Jim Bray (see below) and Larry Bolingbroke (see above).

CARIBOO-OKANAGAN REGION

September 30 - October 1

Location: University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops

Contact: Jim Bray, Instructor
College Access Faculty
Developmental and Regional Programs
University College of the Cariboo
Kamloops
Phone: 828-5284 or 828-5290

September 30 workshop topic:

"Strategies for teaching critical thinking." Presenter: Moira Gutteridge, Instructor of Philosophy, Humanities Department, University College of the Fraser Valley.

October 1 workshop topic:

"Strategies for teaching people with learning difficulties." Presenter: Anne Erickson, Access Services, Malaspina College.

NORTHEAST REGION

October 14 - 15

Location: Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek

Contact: Jeanne Purvis, Instructor
Adult Basic Education
Northern Lights College
Dawson Creek
Phone: 782-5251 (extension 1254)

October 14 workshop topic:

"Developmental and/or remedial: Assessing ABE students' skills and needs." Presenter:

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"Nakedness" from page 3

Catherine Schnare, Coordinator,
Learning Skills Centre, Selkirk
College.

October 15 workshop topics:

"Teaching and learning
strategies for adults with
learning disabilities."

Presenter: Catherine Schnare
(see above).

"Evolution of outcome-based
education: From nakedness to
clothing." Presenter: Rick
Scott, Instructor, School
District #59 and Northern
Lights College.

LOWER MAINLAND REGION

October 21 - 22

Location: Chateau Granville
Hotel, Vancouver

Contact: Linda Hackett, Coordinator
Adult Literacy Contact Centre
Vancouver

Phone: 684-0624 (Lower Mainland);
1-800-663-1293 (outside Lower
Mainland)

(Workshop topics and
presenters to be announced.)

KOOTENAY REGION

October 28 - 29

Location: East Kootenay
Community College,
Cranbrook

Contact: Bob Gadsby, Instructor
Adult Basic Education
East Kootenay Community College
Invermere
Phone: 342-3210

October 28 workshop topic:

"Strategies for teaching critical
thinking." Presenter: Moira
Gutteridge (see above).

October 29 workshop topic:

"Learner diagnosis and
assessment: Strategies for
people with learning
difficulties." Presenter: Anne
Erickson (see above).

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION

November 18 - 19

Location: Malaspina College,
Nanaimo

Contact: Lynn Hunter, Literacy
Coordinator
Developmental Programs
Malaspina College
Nanaimo
Phone: 755-8741

Workshop topics:

"Never-fail method of writing:
Hands-on creating and
publishing."

"Assessment and strategies for
teaching people with learning
difficulties."

"Strategies for teaching critical
thinking across the ABE
curriculum."

(Presenters to be announced.)



NLS moves to new federal agency

The National Literacy
Secretariat (NLS), formerly
under Multiculturalism and
Citizenship Canada, has moved
to the newly-created federal
Department of Human
Resources and Labour.

The change comes about from
the recent federal government
reorganization which resulted in
the realignment and
consolidation of a number of
programs under new
departments.

The new Minister is the
Honourable Bernard Valcourt,

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Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 West Hastings Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.

684-0624 Lower Mainland

684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre
is a project of the Adult Basic
Education Association of B.C. and
is jointly funded by the Ministry of
Advanced Education, Training and
Technology; and the National
Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving
your literacy news by phone, fax
or mail. We reserve the right to
edit written submissions for the
newsletter.

The newsletter is published
monthly (except as noted). It is
available free of charge to any
individual or agency upon request.



"NLS" from page 4

formerly Minister of
Employment and Immigration.

The Prime Minister's Office says the new portfolio of Human Resources and Labour "will provide an integrated approach to Canada's national investment in people. It brings together under one Minister, programs supporting the income of Canadians with employment/human resource programs linked to requirements of the national economy and labour market. This will be a major step in building the mobile, educated and skilled workforce needed for Canada's international competitiveness."

The NLS is now part of the new Social Development and Education Branch, which is comprised of programs from the Social Service Programs Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare; Education Support, Student Assistance, the Women's Program and the Status of Disabled Persons Secretariat, from the Department of the Secretary of State; and the Immigration Settlement Branch from Employment and Immigration.

The NLS address, telephone and fax have not changed.

For further information,
contact:

National Literacy Secretariat
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1K5
Phone: (819) 953-5280
Fax: (819) 953-8076 □

New plain language course at VCC

Vancouver Community College (VCC) Continuing Education will offer a new six-hour course this fall to address the needs of people who have to deal with plain language techniques in their work.

The course, "Plain language: Making your message clear," will be given by Cheryl Stephens, Editor of Rapport Communications newsletter, *Rapport: News about plain language*.

Participants in the course will learn how to create a plain language document by taking practical steps to research the reader's needs, and editing from a reader's point of view. Other topics to be covered include: avoiding bias; effective graphics, illustrations, layout and design; readability tests; and how to test documents on potential readers.

The course is scheduled for:

**September 27 and 29
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

**at
Vancouver Community
College - City Centre
250 West Pender Street
Vancouver**

The cost is \$65.00. To register,
contact:

Vancouver Community College
Continuing Education
Phone: 443-8380

Note: refer to course #104549.

□

Flea market Fund-raiser for ALDA

Lower Mainland residents are invited to help support the Adult Learning Disabilities Association (ALDA) when the organization holds a flea market sale:

**Saturday, September 25
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

at

**Liquidators Flea Market
4050 Knight Street at
Kingsway
Vancouver**

Items for sale will include clothes, jewellery, knick-knacks and household goods. ALDA is also welcoming, through September 24, donations of goods such as these for the sale.

Money raised will go towards supporting ALDA programs and services. ALDA is a non-profit public awareness, referral and counselling service that provides help for adults with learning disabilities.

For further information, contact:

Adult Learning Disabilities
Association
#1322 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone: 683-5554 □

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

All are welcome at the **Carnegie Adult Learning Centre** annual one-day **Learner's Conference**, which will take place **September 30, 1993** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., followed by a dance.

The event is co-sponsored with the **First United Church (Vancouver)** and the **Downtown Eastside Women's Centre**.

The conference will include workshops, speakers, readings, and an open forum ("Access to Education") where "learners and the community can speak out about adult education at Carnegie."

The focus of the forum is "adult education from the learner's point of view. Learners will have an opportunity to share their ideas, their concerns and their enthusiasm with key people in the field of education as well as public policy makers."

Rika Uto, of the **Learner Conference Planning Committee**, says the purpose of the conference is "to show people that there are opportunities for them if wanted or needed. It gives the learners already involved the opportunity to show others how they have come to be involved with the Centre and how it has helped them."

Coffee, muffins and lunch will be offered at the event, and childcare and bus transportation subsidies will be available.

The **Carnegie Adult Learning Centre** is a program of the **Vancouver School Board's Career and Community Education Services**.

The fall 1993 Carnegie schedule includes courses such as "welfare advocacy," a "native issues forum," and "women speak out," as well as various literacy theme units, grammar, creative writing and English as a second language literacy.

The Centre also runs a daily drop-in, where learners work with tutors and instructors to build reading, writing and math skills "in a critical context."

For further information, contact:

Debbie Bryant
Literacy Outreach Worker
Carnegie Adult Learning Centre
Third Floor - 401 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6A 2T7
Phone: 665-3013
Fax: 684-8442 ☐

The Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) is holding its first annual conference in **Montreal**, **November 5 through 7, 1993**. The event will be co-hosted with **Literacy Partners of Quebec**.

MCL is an **Ottawa-based** "national literacy lobbying and advocacy network which seeks to increase resources for adults to read and write."

Literacy Partners of Quebec is "an incorporated provincial coalition of reading councils, school boards and other organizations actively involved in teaching English literacy and the empowerment of people in need of such programming."

For further information, contact:

Isa Helfield, Coordinator
Literacy Partners of Quebec
c/o The Centre for Literacy
Dawson College
Room 4B.1 - 3040 Sherbrooke Street
West
Montreal, Quebec
H3Z 1A4
Phone: (514) 931-8731 local 1413
Fax: (514) 931-5181 ☐

"**Literacy: Voices and Visions**" is the theme of the **Alberta Association for Adult Literacy (AAAL)** annual conference to be held in **Edmonton**, **November 18 - 20, 1993**.

The conference features keynote speaker **Dr. Jennifer Horsman**, a community educator and researcher with a feminist perspective, who will address the issues of women and literacy and creditization of literacy workers. **Horsman** is

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currently with the Spiral Community Research Group in Toronto.

Horsman will also conduct a full day institute at the conference called, "Training to Train," which will explore the training needs of paid staff, volunteers, and learners.

The early registration deadline for the conference is October 16, 1993.

For a registration package, contact:

Sheilagh McBride
AAAL Conference
c/o Alberta Vocational College
10215 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1L6
Phone: (403) 427-5516
Fax: (403) 422-1173 ☐



Drawing by Quint Parker
from *Northwest Journey:
Sketches of Life and
Learning*

NEW RESOURCES

"In the past before the Europeans came there was no such thing as social services, no such thing as government records, and no such thing as the press or media. With this in mind I will tell you how the potlach played an important role in the lives of the Gitskan and Wet'su'weten people."

These are the words of one adult learner in a new publication, *Northwest Journey: Sketches of Life and Learning*.

The stories, poems and drawings in this 106-page book "are about northwest B.C. by learners who make their lives in the region." Some learners who have reviewed *Northwest Journey* have said about it:

"Well organized folklore that people of the Northwest should know more about."

"It takes a strong heart to write something of yourself."

"Right on! Yep, uh huh!"

Northwest Journey is the product of a 1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared project shared by Project Literacy Terrace and Northwest Community College.

Copies of the book are available free of charge (although donations are welcome) from:

Nat Purcell
Centre Director
Project Literacy Terrace
P.O. Box #54
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 4A2
Phone: 635-9119 ☐

The 5th edition of *Our Own Words*, a collection of writings by Adult Basic Education students of British Columbia, is now available. The anthology is a publication of the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development, Victoria, and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

This issue contains stories, poems and essays by 64 contributors from B.C. community colleges and the Open Learning Agency. The submissions represent three levels of the ABE curriculum: intermediate, advanced and provincial.

Copies of *Our Own Words* are available free of charge from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Phone 1-800-663-1293.

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Getting Started: How to Start Your Own Literacy Learner Support Group, was prepared by six members of the Kelowna Literacy Learners Support Group in partnership with Okanagan University College, as a 1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared project. The 21-page handbook is written at a reading level for adult literacy learners. The Kelowna support group produced the booklet because, "We found very little published material at an easy-to-read level that we could use" to organize and build a support group.

The booklet covers such topics as how to find an appropriate setting or location, what to

expect from group participants, and how to advertise.

It is available from:

Maureen Stephens, Coordinator
Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring
Adult Basic Education
Okanagan University College
Kelowna Campus
1000 KLO Road
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 4X8
Phone: 762-5445

A variety of new adult basic education (ABE) materials are now available from the Marketing Department of the Open Learning Agency. These include:

❖ ABE Fundamental Level Mathematics II

❖ ABE Geometry

❖ Biology Video Laboratory

❖ Hyperware integrated software for adult language and language arts learners.

For further information on the complete list of materials available, contact:

JoAnne Pasquale, Coordinator
Resource Centre and
Publications
Centre for Curriculum and
Professional Development
Fifth Floor - 1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3K4
Phone: 387-9628
Fax: 387-9142 ☐

Change of Address

Moving? Please help us keep your *Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter* coming to you by filling out this form and returning it to us by mail or fax. (If possible, please send your old mailing label also.)

Name: _____ Job title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

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622 - 510 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8 Fax: 684-8520